

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JOINT MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF FINANCE & BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022
MINUTES**

The Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting with the Boards of Finance and Education on October 18, 2022 with First Selectman Pam Sawyer presiding. Also, in attendance were selectmen: Robert Morra, Mike Eremita, Adam Teller and Robert DePietro. Administrative Officer Jim Rupert, Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins and Kathy McCavanagh.

Board of Education: Susan Pike, Scott Rich, Chris Davey, Ben Davies, Rhea Klein and Diana Pagano.

Board of Finance: Robert Munroe, Kristen Gourley, Ross Lally, Alex Rivera, Charlie Danna, Amanda Gordon and Mather Clark.

1. Call to Order.

P. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Stopped meeting at 7:03 pm. due to technical difficulties. Meeting was called to order again at 7:10 p.m.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Discussion on budget and related items for the current fiscal year, next year, and subsequent years, including:

A. Revenues.

We currently have just over \$1 million in revenues. \$50,000 needs to be taken off the top right away for the rainy day fund. The remaining amount is an unaudited amount and Jill expects that the number will drop further than this in the end.

B. Expenditures.

C. Debt Service.

Refunded = Refinancing of Bonds.

D. Columbia Student Count.

Columbia Enrollment for the current year was projected at 22 students and this is the actual number we have.

When the original bond went out the numbers were different. It was anticipated that there would be 48 students/year.

Choice Kids = 41 students which is about the same as last year. More seats were opened up but they were not used.

There is the potential to open up our enrollment to other towns but this may have negative ramifications for us. This would be tuition only students. Special Ed students would not be covered because we don't have an agreement with other towns like we do with Columbia.

E. Capital Improvements

a. Board of Selectmen.

1. Town Office and Meeting Space.

If we were to build a new town hall we would put it out to public opinion on what would happen with the current building. A study would have to be done and the results would then be brought back to the community.

2. NRM.

This building needs to come down and build a new end wall that separates the two (2) meeting rooms and the senior center. Looking at \$1.2 to \$1.5 million dollars and there is currently no grant money available for this.

If we had to prioritize the top three (3) items on this list it would be the following:

1. BCS Roof
2. Tear Down NRM
3. Fire House Addition

3. Fire House Addition.

Approx. \$1.5 million for an additional apparatus bay; plus extra money would be needed to maintain the building as we have some current issues that would need to be taken care of.

4. Fire Truck.

Truck has been ordered and is in production. We put a down payment on it when we started and the balance due now is \$630,000. We are looking for funds to pay the balance of this. Expected that we will have the new truck next spring – which would put it in this fiscal year.

5. ARPA.

We have received all the funds and they are in a new account. (Funds must be used by 2024).

Waterline from Manchester is not going to happen. So, we have to look at all of our projects and see how we want to spend this money and what can we do in the time frame allotted. One thing

we're looking at is maybe using the funds to tear down NRMC and also the BCS Greenhouse.

6. Connectivity Trail.

Trail is 100% funded by the state. We currently have commitment from the state to fund the multi-use trail project (from Notch Road to the Trooper's Office). This will also include fixing the ditch on this side of the road

7. LOTCIP.

LOTCIP grant has been applied for to continue the multi-use path from Town Hall through Bolton Heritage Farm. (This trail will be ADA compliant).

8. STEAP.

9. Other

Senior Center received grant funds for new pickle ball courts and patio furniture.

b. Board of Education.

1. BCS School Roof.

Whole roof is not eligible for replacement. Roof is approx. 78,000 sq. ft. Looking at \$2 million plus to do a replacement. There was talk that maybe a study should be done to have a peaked roof put on.

2. BHS Solar.

This has been a conversation with the energy commission for solar panels to be put near the BOE and the BHS cafeteria but nothing has ever come of it.

3. High School Soccer Field and Track Improvements.

John B. trying to get updated numbers on this.

4. Complete Funding for BHS Storage Building.

There is currently \$180,000 in CAPA for this. We do not have room for a 6 bay. The plan is to do a 30x50, 4-bay oversized garage. Current estimate is \$281,250. John B. is looking at the buying consortiums we're involved with to see if we can get any better pricing.

It was suggested that the storage building be put at the parks dept. and we do a 6 bay. This way the equipment can be stored in a central location and used by all departments. They would also like to make sure the skid steer is available for use by all departments when it arrives.

5. BCS Greenhouse.

This needs to come down sooner rather than later.

6. HVAC.

There is a grant out by the state. We have attended the webinar and are waiting for additional information including: will our energy management system qualify? Grant is due 12/1/22 – K. Heckt does not feel we will be able to apply for this with this deadline.

7. Other.

Special Education changes daily. It is very costly and we did not budget for what will be needed this year.

4. Adjournment.

P. Sawyer adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy McCavanagh

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto